

HOW FUND WAS RAISED FOR MURDER OF BAFF

**FINAL
EXTRA**

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BIG AUSTRIAN ARMY OF 175,000 MEN IN FULL RETREAT, RUSSIANS REPORT

BAFF ASSASSINATION STAGED BY "MURDER RING" AT SECRET MEETING OF BUSINESS FOES

Gunmen Named and Defense
Fund Paid In Three Days
Before Slaying.

BINOVITZ CONFESSES.

Agent of "Higher-Ups" Admits
He Paid Murderers Blood
Money.

Information reached District Attorney Whitman to-day which revealed the details of a secret meeting of the "murder ring" banded together to kill Barnett Baff at Lexington Avenue and East One Hundred and Seventh Street, in the vicinity of the Harlem live poultry market, three days before Baff was shot down.

The meeting was attended by eighteen men of the West Washington Market poultry trade, among whom were two suspects now under arrest and almost certain to be indicted. An almost complete list of the total number present is now in the hands of Whitman.

The District Attorney knows who hired the room for the meeting and who paid for it. It was at this meeting that the procurers of the gunmen chosen for the assassination announced the names of the assassins and told of the plans made for their approach to and "getaway" from West Washington Market. In other words, the stage manager of a murder reported and received from the backers their confirmation of his arrangements.

Also money which had been subscribed for a "defense fund" was paid in at this meeting in the form of cash, to be distributed in small part to the gunmen, the rest to be held in reserve for counsel fees and the removal from court jurisdiction of possible embarrassing witnesses.

In Herman Binovitz, a chicken dealer associated with the West Washington Market poultry trade, District Attorney Whitman believes he has found the money passer active in the Baff murder plot.

To-day Binovitz appeared as a witness before the Grand Jury and made a full and complete confession of his activities as go-between and financial messenger between certain powers in the "murder ring" and the more humble agents who actually wielded revolvers.

"This testimony of Binovitz's is the last link to make the chain of evidence complete," said the District Attorney with a smile of satisfaction after the Grand Jury had adjourned for the day. "To-morrow I believe that indictments covering every guilty person in the murder will be found."

Not only did the unreserved revelations of the chicken dealer stop the last gap in Whitman's case, but Emil Rettich, father of Carl Jettich, the bartender, and owner of the West Hoboken saloon which was the retreat of the "chicken pullers," gave testimony before the Grand Jury which clinched that of his son and added features Whitman himself was not expecting.

LOVE CRAZED MAN AIMS AT FIANCEE AND KILLS CHILD

Remorse Makes Jersey Man
Confess He Shot
Through Window.

MILLVILLE, N. J., Dec. 28.—George Horn, twenty-nine, has confessed that he fired the shot which killed six-year-old Beatrice Bailey at Buckshutten, four miles south of here last night.

Horn feared he would be killed by Alice Pettit, seventeen, an aunt of the child, and it was with the intention of killing Miss Pettit that he fired the fatal shot.

The young man is overwhelmed with remorse. It is said by detectives who were present when Horn made his confession, that the girl threw her arms around him and said she forgave his crime.

Beatrice Bailey was the daughter of Mrs. William Bailey of this town. She had gone to Buckshutten to spend the Christmas holidays with her grandmother, Mrs. Alice Pettit, and was lulling over with happiness yesterday evening because she had received word over the telephone that her mother was to visit Buckshutten, spend the night with her and bring her back home to-day.

Mrs. Pettit, her daughter, other members of her family and little Beatrice Bailey had supper a little after a o'clock yesterday. Beatrice sat alongside her grandmother and prattled throughout the meal. The others were seated at their places listening to the child when the sound of a revolver shot was heard outside.

Beatrice Bailey slipped from her chair to the floor. A bullet fired through the dining room window had entered her brain.

Doctors said the child had died instantly.

Mrs. Bailey reached her mother's home in Buckshutten about half an hour after her little daughter died and was prostrated by the shock.

The news that little Beatrice had been killed by an assassin in the home of Mrs. Pettit soon spread through the countryside and eventually reached Horn, who was living in his home. Although neighbors had seen him running away from the Pettit house, he had not been recognized.

In the meantime detectives had questioned every member of the Pettit family and had with some difficulty obtained from Alice Pettit the information that she had been threatened by Horn because she had refused to marry him. This admission was gained some five hours after the tragedy. Love and frenzy were just about to start for Horn's home when that individual burst into the gathering at the Pettit house.

WHITMAN SAYS HE WON'T BE BACK DOOR GOVERNOR

Politicians Must Do Their
Whispering in Public, Says
New Executive.

WILL LOCK INNER DOOR.

"There Will Be No Back Door
for My Administration," He
Says in Interview.

When Gov.-elect Whitman takes possession of the executive offices in Albany on Friday the door to the inner sanctum, commonly called the Star Chamber, will be kept locked. Politicians, office seekers and all the people with strings to pull and influence to try to exert will have to see the Governor to the big outer office of the Capitol.

In this plan for transacting business in the open Mr. Whitman is going to follow the policy laid down by Gov. Hughes, who refused to see the politicians in secret, but made them do their whispering in public.

"I think the policy of open dealing is the best policy," said Mr. Whitman today. "The back door I intend to keep locked. I have been in Albany before and I know something about the practice. The two years I spent there, representing the city, gave me insight into the methods."

"The big outer reception room of the Executive office is the best place to see people both as a matter of convenience and of openness. Incidentally, the arrangement of rooms of the Executive suite is very inconvenient, as the room assigned to the Governor for his work is very small and crowded."

"According to my present plans, I intend going to Albany Thursday afternoon. Mrs. Whitman already has gone there to make arrangements for occupancy of the Executive mansion. The programme calls for inauguration of the Governor at noon on Friday. The oath of office will be administered by Chief Judge Willard Bartlett of the Court of Appeals."

"What will be your first act as Governor?" was asked.

"I suppose the first thing will be my own resignation as District Attorney of New York County. That will be merely perfunctory, consisting of the filing of the formal resignation. Next I will appoint Mr. Charles A. Perkins to be District Attorney in my place."

"The law provides that the Governor must designate certain Supreme Court Justices as members of the Appellate Division. That will be my next act."

"There are five vacancies to be filled, caused by the expiration of the term."

(Continued on Second Page.)

ANOTHER COLD WAVE COMING

Headed East From the West and
Due Here Late To-morrow.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—Look out for another cold wave. It's coming fast east of the Rockies, the Weather Bureau announced to-day. Warnings to-night have been issued generally from Kansas to West Virginia and North. The cold wave will strike the Atlantic and New England States to-morrow afternoon or night.

Report Army Appropriation Bill.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—The Army Appropriation bill carrying \$101,000,000 was reported favorably from committee.

German Shell Fragments That Did Damage In British Cities; Hole That One of Them Made



BUSINESS IMPROVING, WILSON DECLARES

All Information Reaching Him,
President Says, Indicates
Steady Gain.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—President Wilson said to-day that all the information reaching him indicated business in the United States was steadily improving.

SHOOTING OF AMERICANS DISTRESSES WILSON

President Hopes Reports of Canadian
Affair Are Exaggerated.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—The shooting of two American miners by Canadian soldiers on the Niagara River near Fort Erie yesterday, is viewed by President Wilson with deep distress. He told cabinet members he had received no formal report on the incident and hoped the accounts of the circumstances had been exaggerated.

Secretary Bryan instructed the American Vice-Consul at Fort Erie to take possession of the body of the man killed and to do everything possible for the man wounded. The State Department has reported the incident to Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British Ambassador here. Only a brief report of the affair came to the State Department from the Vice-Consul at Fort Erie. The papers have been laid before the State Department Solicitor, who probably will issue a report on the action of the former's jury.

BUFAIRO, N. Y., Dec. 28.—The Canadian militiamen who killed one American duck hunter and wounded another on Lake Erie yesterday, today declared they were simply trying to frighten the men and did not aim to kill them. American Vice Consul J. B. Curtiss, stationed at Fort Erie, Ont., talked to the soldiers and obtained their statement.

Charles Dorosh, who was wounded by the Canadian soldiers, was able to give his version of the affair to-day. He stated that neither Smith, who was killed, nor himself understood what the soldiers wanted. In the confusion the hunters decided to pull for home. The fatal shots followed immediately. Dorosh said he counted fifteen shots and then lost track. Several shots, he said, were fired after the men had been hit and were lying in the bottom of the boat.

For Racing See Sporting Page.

LAWYER'S WIFE TAKES POISON; GIVES FATAL DOSE TO BABIES

Mrs. Loryl Rogers Tries to End Two Children's
Lives With Bichloride of Mercury Because War
Destroyed Her Husband's Law Practice.

In a fit of desperate melancholy over her husband's recent business reverses, Mrs. Ada Rogers, wife of Loryl Rogers, a lawyer, with offices in the Westworth Tower, today disposed three powerful phials of mercury tablets among her two small children and herself, forced the infants to swallow the poison and took a smaller portion of the deadly stuff for her own death draught.

Loretta, eight months old, cannot recover from the poison, the doctors at Lebanon Hospital say; John, two years old, has, still a slender chance for life and in the case of the mother only time will tell whether or not her suicidal resolve will be fulfilled.

The Rogers used to be in more than comfortable financial circumstances, owning a summer home in Tuxedo besides a city house in New York. But with the war came quick reverses, due to the fact that most of the husband's business was among Germans, who were facing ruin, and speedily retrenched. The Tuxedo home had to be sold and the family gave up their town house and moved to a modest two-story house at No. 221 West One Hundred and Sixty-seventh Street, the Bronx.

At 11 o'clock this afternoon Mrs. Katherine Burns, who lives on the floor below the Rogers heard screams coming from the rooms upstairs. She ran up to the Rogers home to find Mrs. Rogers, her face white and drawn, sitting in a chair by the window and the two infants rolling on the floor in agony.

"We're all going to die," the mother faintly moaned. "I gave Loretta half of a bichloride tablet, gave John a whole one and swallowed one and a half myself."

Mrs. Burns in frantic haste telephoned to Dr. W. G. Horne, of No. 1029 Ogden Avenue, the Rogers's family physician, and told Policeman Kiley of the Highbridge Station what had transpired. Kiley sent in a call for an ambulance from Lebanon Hospital, to which Dr. Freund answered. When the two physicians arrived they did all they could to counteract the effects of the poison upon the children.

RUSSIANS CAPTURE 25,000 AUSTRIANS IN BATTLE IN MOUNTAINS

Vienna and Berlin Dispute Claims
of Victories Made in Petrograd
Despatches — Austrians Declare
Russian Attacks Were Repulsed.

GAINS AT MANY POINTS
REPORTED BY THE ALLIES

PETROGRAD (Via London), Dec. 29 [Associated Press].—The retreat of the Austrian army in Galicia, along the Lisbo-Sabok-Dukla-Zmigrod front is described officially here as more and more precipitate and disorderly. The retreating forces are estimated unofficially as numbering about 175,000 men.

The nature of the country favors the Austrians in their retreat. The corridor-like valleys and passes prevent the Russians from pursuing them over parallel roads or harassing their flanks. Only six roads cross the Carpathians, two of which are little more than mountain trails.

Reports here declare Gen. Von Hindenburg's army has been halted before Warsaw.

Two decisive defeats broke the back of the rejuvenated Austrian offensive. The two armies that started to relieve Cracow and Przemyśl and incidentally to drive a wedge into the Russian forces were met and defeated in turn by the Czar's troops before they had a chance to unite their strength. At least 25,000 prisoners have been taken in these battles, 3,500 being captured in the bloody battle of Tuchow on Christmas Day.

PARIS, Dec. 26 [United Press].—The Government announced this afternoon that French dirigible balloons have bombarded the railway station at Sarrebourg and other points along the railway line to Avricourt.

French aeroplanes continue to fly over Metz and to drop bombs on the German hangars at Frascati and other points in that vicinity.

Repulse of Russian Attacks In Poland Claimed by Berlin

BERLIN, via London by wireless, Dec. 29 [Associated Press].—The War Office to-day made the following report on the progress of the war on the eastern battle front:

"No changes have taken place in the situation in East Prussia. On the right bank of the Vistula, in Poland, on a branch of the Bzura and on the Rawka Rivers, our attacks have made progress. In the region of Inowolka strong Russian attacks have been repulsed."

Austrian Official Report Claims Repulse of Russians

VIENNA (via wireless to London, Dec. 29 [United Press]).—In an official statement to-day the Austrian Government claims the Russians have again been forced back after fighting of the fiercest character. The statement says:

North of the Dukla Pass the Austrians have avoided a series of planned Russian attacks and have maintained their original positions. In the neighborhood of the Carpathian Ridge and in the plain between the Bzura and the Donajce Rivers the enemy has delivered a series of fierce attacks, all of which have been repulsed.

Two Mile Gain in Belgium, Trenches Retaken, French Report

PARIS, Dec. 29 [United Press].—Reports of a gain of more than two miles in Belgium, violent bombardment by the Germans of the allied positions along the main road from Roy to Amiens, recapture of lost trenches after violent charges and counter charges and substantial gains in the Alsace district electrified Paris to-day.

Despite the snow and mud which cover the entire field of battle.